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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Aoyagi, J. et al.

Serial No.: Herewith

Group Art Unit: 1615

Filed: August 16, 2001

Examiner: Tran, S.

Title: NOVEL ADSORBENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination and prior to the calculation of the filing fee, please amend this application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 18 and 19 as follows.

4. (Amended) An adsorbent according to [any of claims] claim 1[-3], wherein said adsorption basis is a carbonaceous material possessing the ability to effect adsorption.

6. (Amended) An adsorbent according to [any of claims] claim 1[-5], wherein said gel-like substance is the divalent metallic salt of a macromolecular polycarboxylic acid.

8. (Amended) An adsorbent according to [any of claims] claim 1[-5], wherein said gel-like substance is soybean curd, jelly, konjak, agar, perilla, gelidium jelly, or chitosanoxalic acid salt gel.

9. (Amended) An adsorbent formed by drying an adsorbent set forth in [any of claims] claim 1[-8].

12. (Amended) An adsorbent according to claim 10 [or claim 11], wherein said adsorbent moiety comprises an adsorbent set forth in [any of claims] claim 1[-9].